

Lafayette County Highway Safety Meeting

December 15, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

Lafayette County Highway Department

Attendance: Tom Jean - Lafayette County Highway Department
Lisa Borne, Lafayette County Highway Department
Dan Rielly, Lafayette County Highway Department
Dwayne Larson - Lafayette County Board Representative
Reg Gill – Lafayette County Sheriff
Troy Loeffelholz – Lafayette County Sheriff's Dept.
Ryan Mayer-WI DOT Traffic Safety Engineer
Jason King – Darlington Police Dept.
Denise Wellnitz – Darlington School District
Gerald Heimann – Lafayette County Trails Commission
Nate Henriksen - Wisconsin State Patrol
Katrina Hecimovic – SWWRPC
Elam Allgyer – Amish Representative
Aaron Beiler – Amish Representative
Erin Hastert – Lafayette County Health Department

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Tom Jean

The agenda was properly posted at the Lafayette County Courthouse, Darlington Municipal Building, Lafayette County Highway Department and the county website.

Motion by D. Larson, 2nd by R. Gill to approve the minutes from September 15, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.

Tom had everyone introduce themselves and what department/group they represent.

COMMENTS FROM DOT SAFETY ENGINEER – Ryan Mayer

Since the last meeting and the request to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph in the City of Shullsburg, a speed study had been done and the posted 40 mph speed limit is appropriate as the average eastbound traffic was 40 mph, and the average westbound traffic was 42 mph. It is felt that the intersection of STH 11 and CTH O could be widened due to crashes. The construction project in that area is planned for next summer, so that would be a good time to make a change.

A statewide crash analysis was done and there was one in Lafayette County with a higher rating – an area on CTH XX (old STH 151) between Belmont and Platteville, possibly in the area of Ipswitch Road. These could even include slide-offs which would increase the number. Ryan will send the analysis to Tom.

COMMENTS FROM BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & DOT – Bob Bott

Bob was absent but had sent a report showing crash data. The report included where people living in the county traveled for employment; either in the county or outside the county.

Sheriff's Department – (Reg Gill)

Handouts were given for the deer/non deer crashes in the county. Deer crashes are 260 for 2016, and 268 for this time in 2015, with December averaging between 20 to 40 deer crashes. There was discussion regarding the fatalities and whether charges were filed. Jason King felt if charges are filed due to substance abuse with the crash/fatality that the public should be aware that this is a real problem and contributing factor.

ACCIDENT FACTS AND FIGURES – STATE PATROL (NATE HENRIKSEN)

With more snow there comes more work for Sheriff's Dept and State Patrol too. Nate informed everyone that effective January 1, 2017 the new crash report will be DT4000. There is training going on now to use this form. Also, a crash will not be considered "closed" until the repair work is done at the scene, i.e. guardrail fixed, etc.

SLOW RIDE – after Brad Willborn and Ole Olson were here to demonstrate their new slow moving vehicle signs, that they do have some up on Sunnydale Road south of CTH G and north of West Mound Road and they are working.

Reg asked the Amish representatives about licensing of buggy's and if they had heard anything about this. Elam and Aaron said no, and the only State that does require buggy's to be licensed is Indiana.

ATV routes

It had been discussed before that requests for ATV routes should only be acted on once per year, otherwise it is an ongoing thing in the county, and the maps and signage are not up-to-date. The original intent for the routes was to have access to the trails and to connect the towns. Now people want to have access to the trail from all roads. After discussion, Reg Gill made a motion to address ATV routes and approve/disapprove them at the December meeting only. Second by Dwayne Larson, and motion carried. Route requests can be submitted and discussed during each year, but the decision whether to approve/disapprove would only take place at the annual December meeting. Then it would go to County Board in January for the first reading, approved at the February meeting, and the route open in the spring. Maps could then be up-to-date too.

STH 81/78 Bridge – The Village of Argyle petitioned the State DOT to approve crossing this bridge with ATV's to be able to get to the gas station on the other side. The State approved using STH 78 off Valley Road for four blocks onto a city street, but the County needs to approve using this bridge. Motion by Larson, second by King to approve the request. Motion carried.

There were two pages of ATV Route requests – 12 from the Tri County ATV Club and three from the Pecatonica ATV Club.

Tri County ATV Club

1. Out of Calamine – CTH G west to C to Burr Oak Road – NO – already have access to trail
2. CTH G from Calamine to Belmont – NO – already have access to trail
3. CTH O from Burr Oak Road just to County Cheese Trail – YES
4. CTH G from Furnace Hill Road to Hirshbrunner Road – NO
5. CTH F from Fayette to North Lake Road – NO
6. CTH F from Fayette to CTH G to Everson Road – YES
7. Apple Grove Church Road to CTH G – NO – in Argyle Township – not our jurisdiction
8. CTH N from CTH F to CTH G – NO – already open
9. CTH M from Walnut Road (not open) to Hawley Road (not open) to North Road (open) – YES pending approval from Town of Wiota to open both Hawley and North Roads.
10. At CTH F/N and Paulson Road east to Brush Road – NO – Town of Blanchard issue.
11. CTH Z from Holland Road to CTH F; and CTH F to Darlington City limits – YES
12. CTH W from Prairie Road west to Blackhawk Road – NO due to safety issues.

Pecatonica ATV Club

1. CTH F and G from Fayette to South Lake Road – YES (already approved in #6 above)
2. CTH F from CTH F/N intersection to CTH K – NO – (already have access w/#10 above)
3. CTH H from Lafayette/Green County line to Blanchardville City limits – NO – doesn't go anywhere.

Motion by Reg Gill to approve/disapprove with YES/NO's; second by Dwayne Larson, motion carried.

Erin Hastert recommended that there be a formal request form so it is uniform between the groups with the “to/from” route listed, and why they are requesting this route. Grant County already has a form so we could go by that. Also, Katrina stated that SWWRPC could create a map with these requests and have it available for the December meeting for easier viewing.

State and County Highway Project Updates and Concerns – Tom Jean

Project Updates:

- CTH G from Fayette to Argyle will be complete next spring eliminating two bad corners.
- The bridge on CTH O north of Shullsburg will be replaced next year closing that road for 3-4 months.
- There are four other bridges in design stage with construction in 2018
 - CTH U
 - CTH I south of New Diggings
 - Holland Road – Towns of Darlington & Willow Springs
 - Bethel Grove Road by Lake Joy
 - CTH D – overhead bridge
- Bike Trail – half of first phase done - \$2 million project
- Fairgrounds construction for retaining wall – bids maybe next year
- STH 78 from Wiotia to Argyle will be done next year. The Spore Road intersection will be a major adjustment, along with a bridge replacement.

Motion by Nate Henriksen to adjourn, second by Denise Wellnitz. Motion carried.

Next meeting: *March 16th, 2017 - 10:00 am @ the Highway Dept.*

Respectively Submitted:

Lisa Borne, Office Manager